Patent

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits.

This application is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/337,455, which in turn is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S Patent Application No. 09/287,972. Copies of the documents listed on the Form PTO-1449 (modified) can be found in in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/337,455, with the exception of seven U.S. Patent Documents and three "Other Documents" indicated by the boldface type in which they appear on the Form PTO-1449 (modified). A copy of each document in boldface type is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be

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construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

If any fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0415 or credit any overpayment to our Account No. 12-0415. No fees should be due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits.

I hereby certity that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231",

on February 14, 2002 by Suranne Johnston.

Respectfully submitted,

Kam C. Louie

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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (4 pages)

Copy of each document in boldface type on the Form

PTO-1449 (modified)